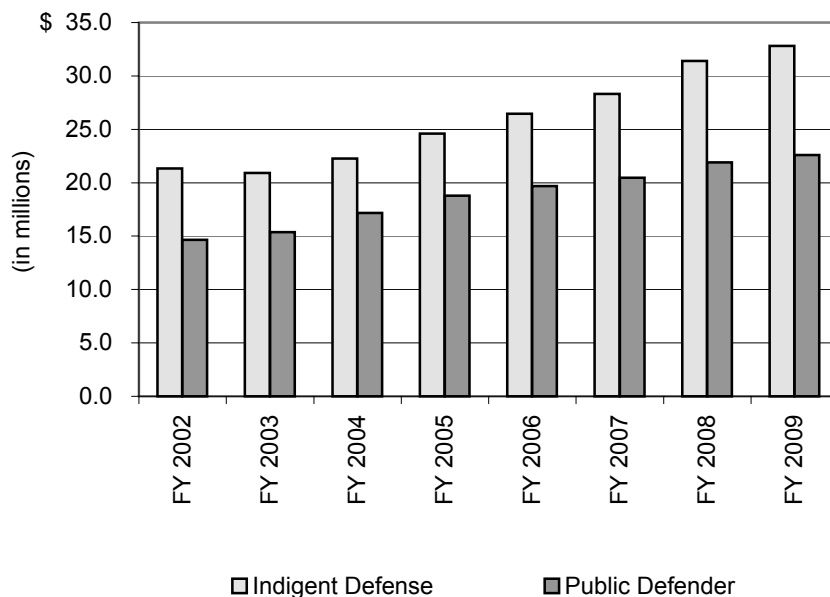


COST OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR INDIGENT DEFENDANTS IN IOWA



- Indigent persons charged with a crime receive legal representation from State employed attorneys from the Office of the Public Defender, from private attorneys that contract with the Office of the Public Defender, from private attorneys appointed by the court, and nonprofit organizations providing legal services. The latter three are paid from the Indigent Defense Fund.
- The growth in costs is attributed to the growth in the number of indigent cases as well as increases in the hourly rates paid to private attorneys for cases not handled by the State Public Defender.
- Costs from FY 2002 to FY 2009 increased 54.0%. The cost is increasing at a less than expected rate, generally attributed to maximizing the use of public defenders for the more expensive and complex cases.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Indigent Defense</u>	<u>Public Defender</u>
2002	\$ 21,327,339	\$ 14,643,564
2003	20,920,396	15,380,971
2004	22,251,338	17,175,778
2005	24,615,105	18,773,653
2006	26,474,972	19,688,834
2007	28,307,232	20,483,466
2008	30,696,291	21,813,138
2009	32,807,331	22,589,131

Source: Office of the State Public Defender

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